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# Food Distribution Program

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE/WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250  
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Through the Food Distribution Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donates foods to various food programs to meet some of the nutritional needs of many children and adults in this country. The program also helps to expand markets for food that American farmers produce.

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## WHO BENEFITS FROM THE PROGRAM?

People that the program serves include:

- Children, through the National School Lunch Program, the Child Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. Also, children in child care institutions, nonprofit summer camps, and schools that get USDA commodities but don't participate in the National School Lunch Program.
- Indian households on reservations that participate in the Food Distribution Program.
- Needy households in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
- Needy people in charitable institutions.
- Elderly people and their spouses, through nutrition programs for the elderly, authorized by Title III of the Older Americans Act.
- Pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to 6 years of age who live in areas that the Commodity Supplemental Food Program serves.
- People who live in a declared disaster area, if they are eligible for meals that disaster relief agencies prepare and serve at central locations.

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## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM OPERATE?

To aid American farmers, USDA buys food under price-support and surplus-removal legislation and makes this food available to States and Indian reservations. USDA pays for the initial processing and packaging of the food and for transporting it to designated points within each State. State distributing agencies are then responsible for storing the food, transporting it throughout the State, and distributing it at the local level to eligible recipient organizations in the various food programs.

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## WHAT FOODS ARE AVAILABLE TO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS?

The foods that USDA donates may vary from time to time depending on what farm products are available. Because of the nutritional needs of participants in the National School Lunch Program, the Needy Family Program, the Title III Elderly Feeding Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, USDA always purchases certain specified foods for these programs.

State distributing agencies have current information on the foods USDA has available to donate. USDA issues a quarterly report showing what foods each State distributed and the quantities that were distributed to each category of eligible recipient.

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may obtain information on the various USDA food distribution programs from:

Food Distribution Division  
Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Or from FNS Regional Offices at the following addresses:

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
One Vahlsing Center  
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691

Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York,  
Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Virginia,  
West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

**Midwest Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
536 South Clark Street  
Chicago, Ill. 60605

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio,  
Wisconsin

**Mountain Plains Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
2420 W. 26th Avenue, Suite 415-D  
Denver, Colo. 80211

Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana,  
Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah,  
Wyoming

**New England Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
33 North Avenue  
Burlington, Mass. 01803

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

**Southeast Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1100 Spring Street NW.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky,  
Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,  
Tennessee

**Southwest Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1100 Commerce Street  
Dallas, Tex. 75242

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma,  
Texas

**Western Regional Office**

Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
550 Kearny Street  
San Francisco, Calif. 94108

Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California,  
Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon,  
Trust Territories, Washington

The Food Distribution Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is available to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, or national origin.

This publication supersedes FNS-83, "Food Donation Program," issued July 1972.

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